

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs 0016, 0021, 0024, and 0027 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0016] The base 104 includes an upper portion or sleeve 110. Preferably, the sleeve 110 forms a generally cylindrical aperture for accepting a corresponding motor housing 102 therein. A base support member 108 is connected to the sleeve. In the current embodiment, the support member 108 is a generally flat circular plate to which a sub-base is connected. In an advantageous embodiment, the support member 108 and the sleeve member 110 are unitary. At least a portion of the base sleeve may have a generally cylindrical outer surface 128 to allow a user to grasp at least a portion of the sleeve/motor housing to manipulate the router. In additional instances, a removable sub-base plate is connected to the support member 108. A sub-base may be utilized for attaching a template guide, to minimize friction between the router base and the workpiece, to prevent marring, and the like.

[0021] Referring to FIGS. 2A and 2B, a grasping member 218 may be configured to allow a user to extend his or her hand between the motor housing/the router base such that the grasping member 218 acts as a back hand support for users who wish to grasp at least part of the motor housing/router base. Those of skill in the art will appreciate that the grasping member may be disposed to provide additional space to allow a user to comfortably insert his or her hand 226 or to allow people with large hands to utilize the L-shaped handle as a back hand support without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention. Additionally, the grasping member 218 may be variably connected to the connecting member 216 such as by a screw and slot configuration or the like to allow adjustable positioning of the grasping member with respect to the base.

[0024] Referring now to FIGS. 5 and 6, in further embodiments, an L-shaped handle 512 is formed with a dust and debris channel 532 extending therethrough. Preferably, the L-shaped handle is connected to the base adjacent the interface of

the base sleeve 510 and base support member 508 so that dust and debris may be directed towards the channel 532 through normal operation of the router bit 506. Furthermore, a vacuum source coupled via a vacuum hose 536 (also shown as hose 136 in FIG. 1), connected to the handle, may direct dust and debris through the channel 532. Preferably, the channel 532 has a curved surface 534 about the intersection of the segments forming the "L" to assist in directing the debris into the grasping member portion 518 of the channel. In further examples, a securing device is included on the ~~distal~~ distal end 538 of the L-shaped handle. Suitable securing devices may include a zone 638 for frictionally securing a vacuum hose, tabbed clips, annular protrusions, a collar for accepting a quick release hose clamp included on a vacuum hose, a mechanical connection, biased pins, and the like to secure a hose to the handle.

[0027] Referring to FIG. 9, in further examples, a dust directing housing 946 is implemented with a router 900 having an L-shaped handle with a debris channel 932. Preferably, the housing 946 is configured to direct dust and debris toward a debris aperture 940 in the base sleeve and subsequently into a channel 932 included the L-handle. The dust housing 946 may removably attach adjacent an associated router bit 906. In the current embodiment, the dust housing 946 is attached to the base support 908 on a side adjacent the base sleeve 910. In further embodiments, the housing is attached in an internal aperture of the base support, between the base support and a removable sub-base. For example, the dust housing 946 is generally cylindrical with an end wall and a side wall at least partially extending around the circumference of the end wall. The side wall may extend about the generally circular end wall with a gap or duct included to align with a dust aperture included in the base sleeve. A dust housing may have a generally wedge shaped profile with the maximum height of the side wall adjacent the debris aperture 940 to direct dust and debris toward the handle during normal operation. A shroud 948 may be included to extend from the end wall, opposite the side wall, to minimize dust and debris from escaping around the router's collet and bit shank. For instance, a shroud may terminate adjacent the collet end of a motor housing to minimize escaping dust and debris. Preferably, a dust housing's central aperture is configured so that the housing 946 does not interfere with normal operations. For instance, the central aperture is configured to be utilized with a large profiling bit such as an ogee bit or the like. A dust housing may attach to the base or sub-base via a twist interlock, snaps, fasteners, and the like to secure the housing to the router. Those of skill in the art will

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Page : 4 of 17

appreciate that the dust housing of the present embodiment may be integrally formed with a sub-base to attach to the base support on a side opposite the base sleeve. Furthermore, the dust housing may be formed from transparent material to allow a user to observe router operation.